AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for making particles in ~~the~~ a form of spheroids comprising a mixture of an active substance distributed within a thermoplastic material and having a constant diameter in ~~the~~ a range from 0.5 to 2 mm, said apparatus comprising:

an extruder ~~which in turn comprises~~comprising an extrusion die and adapted~~which is proper~~ to produce extruded filaments of said mixture,

~~said apparatus further comprising, located at the exit of the extrusion die,~~ a tool, for chopping the extruded filaments, wherein said tool is located at an exit of the extrusion die and is equipped with cutters in the form of blades having a first and a second face parallel with one another, the first face being~~of which is~~ inclined toward the second face, thus forming a cutting edge, the second face being recessed so as to leave a strip of a width of less than 1 mm which comprises the cutting edge, whereby ~~the shape of~~ the particles obtained by chopping the extruded filaments ~~is directly spheroïdal~~are spheroidal without any additional ~~spheroïdal~~ spheroidal shaping step.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) In a method of making spheroid particles~~, in particular spheroids~~ intended to be used for preparing tablets, said particles ~~which include~~including an

active substance and having a constant diameter in ~~the~~ a range from 0.5 mm to 2 mm, said method including successively :

a) a step of selecting an active substance and a thermoplastic material, including at least one polymer excipient and at least one plasticizer,

b) a step of forming a mixture of the active substance and the thermoplastic material,

c) a step of introducing the ~~said~~ mixture into ~~the~~ a kneading area of an extruding machine,

d) a step of extruding the ~~said~~ mixture~~, inside the extruding machine comprising a kneading area,~~ from the extruding machine without solvent at a controlled temperature to produce at least one extruded filament~~, or extrudate~~ and

e) a step of chopping the extruded filament into particles,

the improvement wherein~~consisting in providing~~ between steps b) and c) a maturing step is provided, said maturing step comprising ~~of~~ maintaining the mixture of the active substance and of the thermoplastic material in an oven at a temperature from 20 to 70°C and for a time ~~respectively selected in the range from 20 to 70C and in the range~~ from 30 minutes to 150 hours to provide a matured mixture, wherein: (i) the matured mixture is capable of being stored ~~causing thus the maturing of the mixture, whereby it becomes possible to store the said mixture~~ for up to 7 days before being extruded~~extruding it~~, (ii) an~~the~~ active principle release curve of the particles obtained through extrusion of the matured~~from said~~ mixture ~~being~~ is stabilized and ~~presenting~~ presents~~a~~ kinetics slower than that obtained with particles of ~~same~~ equivalent composition extruded immediately after ~~making up~~forming the mixture with no maturing step, and (iii) ~~due to~~

~~which~~ the particles obtained from the matured mixture~~by the method including the maturing step~~ introduce into an~~the~~ organism an increased quantity of active substance and at an equivalent rate without increasing a~~the~~ volume of a tablet incorporating said particles.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the improvement further comprises conducting the chopping step with cutters in a form of blades having a first and a second face parallel with one another, the first face being inclined toward the second face, thus forming a cutting edge, the second face being recessed so as to leave a strip of a width of less than 1 mm which comprises the cutting edge, whereby the particles obtained by the chopping step are spheroidal without any additional spheroidal shaping step.